CALL FOR ASSOCIATES

Strengthening Civil Society Capacity and Ecosystem in Nigeria

The **West Africa Civil Society Institute (WACSI) Node–Nigeria** is inviting you to join its pool of Associate—a network of skilled development professionals who will support capacity strengthening initiatives to meet the existential needs of civil society actors in different thematic areas across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

Why the WACSI Node Associate Pool?

Civil society organisations (CSOs) in Nigeria play a crucial role in promoting democracy, human rights and inclusive development, despite mounting regulatory, resourcing and security challenges. Multiple independent studies and programmes also highlight persistent institutional and operational gaps that hinder the effectiveness of these organisations. Specifically, past initiatives, such as the EU-ACT and USAID-funded SCALE programmes, were committed to addressing these gaps by strengthening the internal, external and programmatic capacities of CSOs, while also fostering dialogue with regulators. Additionally, the Nigeria Network of NGOs (NNNGO) in one of its assessment reports underscored the need for standardised operational frameworks and improved sector coordination to enhance systemic governance and sectoral accountability.

These sector-wide insights are supported by preliminary findings from an ongoing Civil Society Mapping and Capacity Needs Assessment exercise commissioned by the WACSI Node in 2024. Initial research findings reveals that civil society groups, especially community-based organisations have significant deficiencies in critical areas organisational governance, strategy development, financial management, alternative resource mobilisation, regulatory compliance, partnership, institutional sustainability, among others.

As a civil society capacity strengthening hub, the WACSI Node invites qualified development professionals, thematic experts, facilitators, trainers, researchers and other stakeholders with skills relevant to the non-profit sector in Nigeria to join its pool of Associates. Together, we aim to address these longstanding and emerging capacity gaps among CSOs through bespoke training, coaching, mentoring, peer learning, knowledge production, convening and advocacy. This is an opportunity to partner with the WACSI Node to enhance the institutional and operational capacity of civic organisations in Nigeria, helping them become more dynamic, stronger, well-resourced, influential, sustainable and able to thrive in a resilient ecosystem.

WHY JOIN WACSI NODE POOL OF ASSOCIATES

Co-create solutions

The WACSI Node emphasises a co-creation approach in the conceptualisation, design, implementation and evaluation of capacity development programmes. Associates will play a key role in co-designing tailored programmes that address specific needs. They will not only share their expertise but also learn from diverse perspectives across Nigeria's six geopolitical zones.

Together, they will develop innovative solutions that are responsive to local realities, support sustainable development and help expand civic space.

Connect with Leading Development Professionals for Shared Learning
A strong civil society thrives on connection. The Node will consistently create tactical spaces for Associates to learn, build and strengthen relationships across six geopolitical zones in Nigeria. It will connect practitioners with national and grassroots organisations and opportunities to foster peer-to-peer learning, adapt proven models, promote best practices and enhance resilience. This networked approach fosters a culture of shared learning, amplifies impact across regions and builds a stronger, more coordinated civil society sector nationwide.

Access to WACSI's Capacity Development Resources and Approaches
Associates will gain access to WACSI's methodologies, tools and knowledge products that have strengthened civil society across West Africa for nearly two decades. These resources include training curricula, research publications, policy briefs and toolkits designed to meet the operational and strategic needs of CSOs. Through this exposure, Associates will deepen their expertise and apply WACSI's blended approaches in their engagements with organisations across Nigeria. They will be equipped to facilitate participatory learning, deliver context-sensitive capacity strengthening and support organisations in embedding sustainable practices.

Who Should Apply
We are seeking professionals dedicated to strengthening Nigeria's civil society. This includes practitioners and development experts, trainers, facilitators, researchers, consultants, tax and financial management specialists, as well as legal professionals—including pro bono lawyers—who can provide compliance and advisory support.

How to Apply
Interest persons should:

- Complete the Application form via this link.
- Upload updated curriculum vitae, a sample of written work (report, article, case study, or publication) and two completed reference forms.
- Deadline: 30 September 2025 at 11.59 WAT.

Please contact wacsinodeprogs@wacsi.org for any inquiries or further information.